



September 14, 2021

Resolution on Changing the form of Beaufort County Government

WHEREAS the Beaufort County Republican Party (BCRP) opposes changing the form of Government from the present form to a County-Manager form of Government; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2021, the Beaufort County Council by a vote of 6 to 5 voted to put a referendum before the voters on the November 2021 ballot asking residents to change the county's form of government from council-administrator to council-manager. This referendum would make the county treasurer and auditor appointed positions rather than the current elected. This referendum would provide the County Council and a County Manager with additional powers they presently don't possess; and

WHEREAS the 6 to 5 vote by the County Council in and of itself indicates that the County Council is almost evenly divided on the idea of changing the form of government presently in Beaufort County; and

WHEREAS the Beaufort County Council introduced a similar referendum in 2012, however the voters elected to keep the council-administrator form of government. At that time several council members believed the council-manager form of government would provide the council and the county manager too much power. At that time one member of the Council stated, "I think the vote should continue to be left to the people for who they want to be our auditor and treasurer:" and

WHEREAS, the majority of voting members of the Beaufort County Republican Party (BCRP) Issues Committee present and voting at the August 4, 2021, meeting voted to OPPOSE the change in the form of Government as it would take away the right of the people to be heard by the County Council in their choice of who would be their Treasurer and Auditor; and

WHEREAS they further expressed their desire not to given up their voting right voice to the County Council and/or County Manager to make the choice on who the voters chose to handle their finances. The voting members of the Issues Committee believed these two very important positions should be governed by the voter not the County Council or a County Manager; and



WHEREAS there are presently forty-six (46) counties within the State of South Carolina and at the present time there are only two counties in South Carolina which have adopted the Manager form of government they are York and Greenwood Counties. The remaining counties are Council-Administrator, Council-Supervisor or Council. The county manager would be appointed by the County Council and would report to the county council thereby placing all decision powers in the hands of the County Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Beaufort County Republican Party (BCRP) Opposes the referendum changing the present form of Government to a County-Manager form of Government since it will provide the County Council and County-Manager additional powers and remove further powers from the county voters who are paying the bills generated by the County Council. The BCRP Chairman requests the Executive Committee vote to support the resolution or to NOT support resolution. A MAJORITY VOTE IS REQUIRED.

Kevin Hennelly
Chairman
Beaufort County Republican Party